

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for speedy and substantially complete dehalogenation detoxification of a halogenated aromatic or a halogenated cyclic compound, comprising:

heating said compound on a support matrix in a closed system at a temperature of 250 to 500 °C in the presence of:

(a) a copper compound,

(b) a hydrogen donor,

(c) carbon, and

(d) at least one additional reducing substance capable of reducing cupric and cuprous ions to ~~a highly reactive elemental copper~~ elemental copper in nascent form at said temperature.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said support matrix is a material contaminated by the at least one halogenated aromatic and cyclic compound intended for dehalogenation detoxification.